(b) if so, the details thereof; *inter alia* indicating those that would be covered in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) In accordance with section 1(3) of the NatIonal Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA),2005, the Act shall be applicable to the whole of the territory, to which it extends, within a reriod of five years from the date of its enactment. NREGA was enacted on 7th September, 2005. All districts are to be covered under the Act by 7th September, 2010. The act has already been extended to 330 districts in two phases. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to extend it to 200 more districts.

Committee for amending Land Acquisition Act, 1894

1800. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a Committee to study changes in the 1894 Land Acquisition Act;

(b) the name and members of this Committee;

(c) whether any non-officials have been included in the said Committee;

(d) the steps proposed to protect land-owners from being victims of arbitrary acquisitions by diverse State Governments; and

(e) the date by when all changes proposed in the Land Acquisition Act will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) No Committee have been framed by the Government of India to study changes in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. However, suitable amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and revision of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families, 2003 is under active consideration of the Government. Currently, the matter is being examined by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat to finalize the drafts of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and associated legislative measures in cases relating to land acquisition, for consideration of the Cabinet. After the drafts are finalized by the GoM, the same may be taken to the Cabinet for consideration.

Utilisation of NREG funds for energy crops

1801. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government permits or has a mechanism for utilisation of NREG funds for development of energy crops like Jatropha by private sector enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Tree Plantation is a permissible activity under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Plantation of energy crops like Jatropha